

**The Crucible, Act III**, by Arthur Miller

**Selection Test B**

**Critical Reading** *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What can the audience infer from Judge Hathorne's questioning of Martha Corey at the beginning of Act III?
  - A. The court is determined to uncover the truth at any cost.
  - B. Martha Corey's love of reading is the source of the accusations against her.
  - C. The court presumes that anyone accused of witchcraft is guilty.
  - D. Even the most respected citizens have come under suspicion.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Francis Nurse tells the judges that the girls are frauds. Hathorne's response is, "This is contempt, sir, contempt!" What is this an example of?
  - A. verbal irony
  - B. dramatic irony
  - C. sarcasm
  - D. foreshadowing
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What is Proctor's main purpose in bringing Mary Warren to court?
  - A. to strengthen her character
  - B. to discredit Reverend Parris
  - C. to save his wife from condemnation
  - D. to demonstrate the illegality of the court's proceedings
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. During the presentation of the evidence, Proctor's behavior toward Danforth can best be described as
  - A. crafty.
  - B. defiant.
  - C. evasive.
  - D. respectful.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which character represents the tactic of making personal attacks on the integrity of witnesses?
  - A. Herrick
  - B. Danforth
  - C. Hathorne
  - D. Parris
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. As the action proceeds, the allusion to the story of Raphael and Tobias becomes ironic because
  - A. the developments contradict the message of the story.
  - B. the story is revealed to be false.
  - C. the developments show that the characters have misunderstood the story.
  - D. certain characters twist the meaning of the story to suit their own purposes.

- \_\_\_ 7. Which type of figure is represented by Ezekiel Cheever?
- A. the witness who uses the investigation as an instrument of personal vengeance
  - B. the witness who suffers for his refusal to incriminate others
  - C. the naive witness who harms others by cooperating in an unjust process
  - D. the public figure who misuses the power of office
- \_\_\_ 8. Why is Parris's charge of conspiracy effective?
- A. It gives a plausible explanation for the divisions in the parish.
  - B. It appeals to Danforth's fears of subversion.
  - C. It feeds Danforth's sense of his own importance.
  - D. It plays on Danforth's personal antagonism to ward Giles Corey and Francis Nurse.
- \_\_\_ 9. What motivates Hale's attempt to intervene on behalf of Proctor?
- A. Hale's admiration for the Proctors
  - B. Hale's commitment to the truth
  - C. Hale's questioning of Danforth's integrity
  - D. Hale's dislike of Parris
- \_\_\_ 10. What development causes Mary Warren to recant her confession and rejoin Abigail and the other girls?
- A. John Proctor's confession of his relationship with Abigail
  - B. Judge Danforth's persistent questions
  - C. the confusion about Elizabeth Proctor's "poppets"
  - D. Abigail's pretending to be attacked by Mary's spirit
- \_\_\_ 11. Why is the phrase "out of her infinite charity" in the following passage an example of verbal irony?
- MARY WARREN, *screaming at him*: No, I love God; I go your way no more. I love God, I bless God. *Sobbing, she rushes to* ABIGAIL. Abby, Abby I'll never hurt you more! *They all watch, as* ABIGAIL, *out of her infinite charity, reaches out and draws the sobbing* MARY *to her, and then looks up to* DANFORTH.
- A. It contradicts the audience's knowledge about Abigail's true nature.
  - B. It presents a piece of information of which the audience is not aware.
  - C. It emphasizes Abigail's ability to be forgiving under stress.
  - D. It reveals Abigail's weakening condition.
- \_\_\_ 12. What does Proctor mean when he tells Danforth, "God damns our kind especially, and we will burn, we will burn together"?
- A. We who commit wrongs knowingly are the most guilty of all.
  - B. The whole community will suffer damnation for the injustices being committed here.
  - C. Danforth will suffer damnation if he condemns Proctor to death.
  - D. Although women are accused of witchcraft, men are greater sinners.
- \_\_\_ 13. Which of the following pairs of categories would *not* be useful for organizing the characters in Act III?
- A. Christians and non-Christians
  - B. accusers and accused
  - C. believers in witchcraft and nonbelievers in witchcraft
  - D. liars and truth tellers

- \_\_\_ 14. What character does *not* fit into one of these categories: accuser, accused, court official?
- A. John Proctor
  - B. Mary Warren
  - C. Reverend Hale
  - D. Giles Corey

### Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 15. Someone who is *confounded* is
- A. secure.
  - B. decisive.
  - C. well established.
  - D. puzzled.
- \_\_\_ 16. Which of the following best describes a *prodigious* event?
- A. a rain shower, one of several in a week
  - B. a minor fender bender, for which neither driver files an insurance claim
  - C. an earthquake that causes floods, landslides, and loss of life and property
  - D. an ancient tree falls in a huge forest crushing several others in its fall
- \_\_\_ 17. Choose the inverted sentence whose subject and verb agree in number.
- A. Amazed at the charge is Corey and Proctor.
  - B. There are serious concerns in the community.
  - C. Here come the judge to make his ruling.
  - D. In the vestry waits the angry husbands.

### Essay

18. In an essay, identify at least three ironic statements or events in Act III. For each, describe the situation and explain why the statement or event is ironic. How does it represent something different from what readers or audience members expect or know to be true?
19. In an essay, describe Reverend Hale's role in Act III. What advice does he give to other characters, and under what circumstances? How is Hale's role different from that of all the other characters? Knowing what you know about Hale from Acts I and II, do you think his behavior is in keeping with his *previous* behavior, or contradictory to it? Explain your answer.
20. Judge Danforth is clearly a powerful and influential figure in Act III. What sort of man is he? What does he truly think of the proceedings? What does it mean when the stage directions say that he is rapidly calculating this, when told that Mary Warren admits she never saw spirits? What does it mean when Danforth acknowledges "with deep misgivings" that Mary's confession "goes to the heart of the whole situation? What evidence is there that Danforth has at least a few thoughts about the folly of the proceedings? Why doesn't he stop the whole process? Answer these questions in an essay.